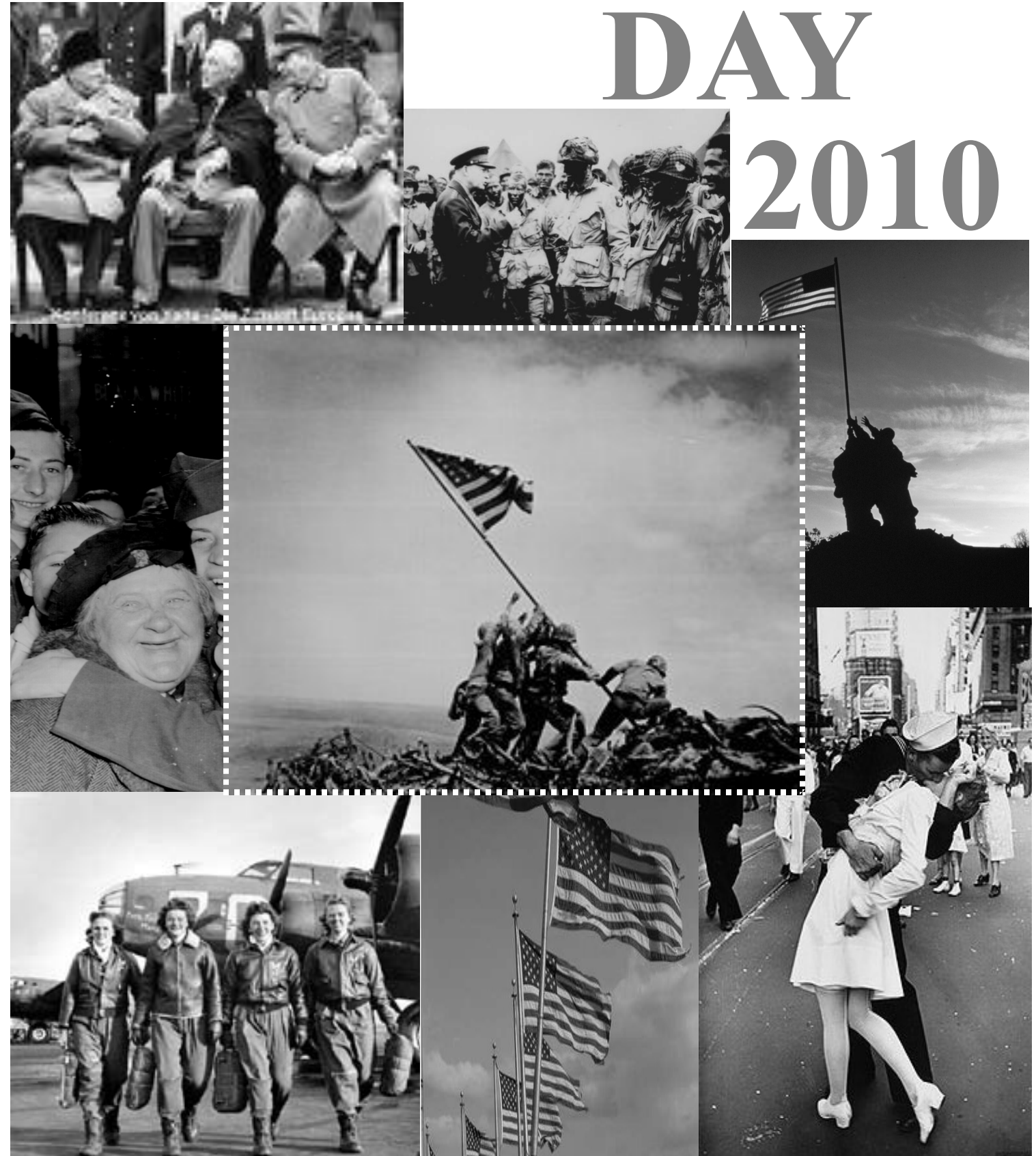


# MEMORIAL DAY 2010



**Tomah VA Medical Center**  
May 28, 2010







Lady Liberty

*Guests,  
hospitalized  
veterans,  
volunteers  
and staff are  
invited to an  
ice cream  
social  
following the  
program.*

Jim Theres  
Public Affairs Officer  
Tomah VAMC  
608-372-7759

Produced through the  
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VA Media Center.



# Tomah VAMC Memorial Day Program

**PRE-CEREMONY MUSIC**

Tomah High School Band

**INTRODUCTION**

Master of Ceremonies  
James Theres  
Public Affairs Officer

**INVOCATION**

Chaplain Ivan Torres

**PRESENTATION OF  
COLORS**

Juneau County Veterans

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Assembly

**National Anthem**

Tomah High School Band

**WELCOME**

Jerald D. Molnar  
Medical Center Director

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Steve Bradley, son of Iwo  
Jima flag raiser, Jack Bradley

**Dixie**

Tomah High School Band

**DELIVERY OF COLORS**

LTC Catherine Kemmerling  
Riding "Lenthos"

**TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN**

Jeff Evanson, USAF  
Natalie Hackbarth, RN  
Tom Teeple, US Army (Ret)  
Jean Villhauer, Food  
Operations

**BENEDICTION**

Chaplain Ivan Torres

**RETIRING OF COLOR**

Juneau County Veterans

**Iwo Jima Flag Raising  
Re-Enactment**

Steuben American Legion  
#446

**Taps**

Tomah High School Band

**POST-CEREMONY  
MUSIC**

Tomah High School Band

**Ice Cream social**

## Message from the Director

Jerald D. Molnar, Medical Center Director

## Tomah High School Band



Led by Band Director Christopher Tubbs

**Lieutenant Colonel Catherine J. Kemmerling** is a 24 year Veteran of the United States Army, and a member of the Blue Devil's Horse Platoon, a ceremonial unit sponsored by the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command at Ft. McCoy, WI. The Blue Devil's Horse Platoon has a long and rich history, dating back to World War II.

In 1944 as the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was fighting its way across Italy it was burdened by numerous captured German and Italian horses. At the suggestion of the Corps Commander, General Lucian K. Truscott, a Platoon of volunteers from the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, as well as units from other divisions in the Theater, was formed to care for, and make use of these horses.



The Platoon performed mounted scout as well as command projection and civil affairs functions for the division until the end of the war. It also was given the mission of performing mounted patrol duties along the Yugoslav-Italian border until the division was relieved from the Italian Theater. After the cessation of hostilities, the Platoon was organized under 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant John Russell to perform show and sport duties with other friendly European nations. Lt Russell imported one horse, "Blue Devil" to the United States, and eventually went on to compete in jumping the 1948 Olympic games. The members of the Blue Devil's Horse Platoon carry on this tradition today, competing in jumping, dressage and tent-pegging, as well as supporting ceremonial events. Lieutenant Colonel Kemmerling is riding Lenthos, a 10 year old Hanoverian gelding that she imported from Germany. She has trained with members of the

Queen's Household Cavalry in England and also the Calvarie Ere Escorte, in the Netherlands. She is one of only two United States Army Soldiers to have earned the Netherlands Military Riding Badge. She currently serves as the Education Coordinator at the Tomah VA Medical Center.



## Scottish Lament "Flowers of the Forest"

The tune is a Scottish Lament entitled 'Flowers of the Forest' and will be played by US Navy Veteran John Elliott. It is thought to be written originally in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by John Skene to honor the memory of some 12,000 Scots, including King James the IV, lost in the battle at Flodden Field on September 1513 in the county of Northumberland.

The words to the lament were added in 1756 by Jane Elliot of Minto. Because of the great loss associated with this tune, it is now traditionally reserved for performances

at funerals or special memorial occasions. The first verse of the song contrasts happier

loaning; The Flowers of the Forest are a' wede away".



Translating uncommon words, "I've heard the singing, at the ewe-milking, Lasses a-singing before dawn of the day; But now they are moaning on every milking-green; The Flowers of the Forest are all withered away."

times with grief at the losses: "I've heard the lilting, at the yowe-milking, Lasses a-lilting before dawn o' day; But now they are moaning on milka green

*Mr. Elliott will play the song during the Veterans WWII Victory parade.*



The Color Guard and Firing Salute for the 2010 Memorial Day ceremony is provided by the Juneau County Veterans. In the photo, Tomah VA Medical Center Hall of Heroes inductee, Kenneth Murphy (*far left*) leads the firing salute.

## Steuben American Legion Post #446



Story and photo by David Krier  
(Boscobel Dial)

For the past 40 years a group of dedicated area veterans have been impressing parade-goers throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest with their lifelike recreation of the famous February 23, 1945 flag raising on the South Pacific atoll's Mount Suribachi. The months long battle cost the lives of nearly 28,000 U.S. Marines, more than the D-Day invasion.

"The float really got started in 1969 or 1970 as a way of remembering the ultimate sacrifice those men gave to their country," says Robert Scallon, post commander.

"It's getting a little harder for us old guys to hold that crouch throughout an hour-long parade. The knees aren't what they used to be," explains Scallon. "We're looking for some younger members to carry on the tradition." Seeing these aging veterans standing stock still for an hour or more often throws spectators off. They're not sure exactly what they're looking at. Statues?

"Most of the time people think it's statues," Scallon says. "Then someone will yell, 'Hey, those are real people!'" Then the crowd comes alive."



# Memorial Day Origins

The location of the first observance of Memorial Day is in dispute. Some claim the custom of honoring war dead began in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. Others claim the custom was originated by some Southern women who placed flowers on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers after the Civil War. According to one writer, the first Memorial Day service took place on May 30, 1866, on Belle Isle, a burial ground for Union soldiers in the St. James River, at Richmond, Virginia. The school superintendent and the mayor planned the program of hymns and speeches and had the burial ground decorated with flowers.

In 1865, Henry C. Welles, a druggist in the village of Waterloo, NY, mentioned at a social gathering that honor should be shown to the patriotic dead of the Civil War by decorating their graves. In the Spring of 1866, he again mentioned this subject to General John B. Murray, Seneca County Clerk. General Murray embraced the idea and a committee was formulated to plan a day devoted to honoring the dead.



In May of 1966, just in time for the Centennial, Waterloo was recognized as the "Birthplace of Memorial Day" by the United States Government. This recognition was long in coming and involved hours of painstaking research to prove the claim. While other communities may claim earlier observances of honoring the Civil War dead, none can claim to have been so well planned and complete, nor can they claim the continuity of observances that Waterloo can who had honored soldiers who had died in the Civil War.

The Centennial Celebration that year brought dignitaries from government, military, veteran's organizations and descendants of the original founders of Memorial Day. A once luxurious home on Waterloo's Main Street, built in 1850, was purchased from the county and restored. Now the Memorial Day Museum, it houses artifacts of the first Memorial Day and the Civil War era. Memorial Day is commemorated each year in Waterloo. The parade, speeches, and solemn observances keep the meaning of Memorial Day as it was originally intended to be.

## Keynote Speaker

### Steve Bradley Son of Jack Bradley

Born and raised in Antigo, WI, Mr. Bradley graduated from Antigo High School 1967; he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1967 and served in Viet Nam 1968, with Lima Company, 3/5, 1st Marine Division. He received the Purple Heart, and was discharged 1971 with the rank of Sergeant. In 1974 he received a degree in Mortuary Science and joined his Father as a Funeral Director in the family business. Retired 2009.



Member of Antigo Veterans Organizations--American Legion-Past Commander, Finance Officer; 40 et 8-Commissaire Intendant; VFW; DAV-Treasurer; Marine Corps League-Judge Advocate; Military Order of the Purple Heart. Also active in community organizations and my church.

**(July 10, 1923 – January 11, 1994)** Jack Bradley was a United States Navy corpsman during World War II, and one of the six men who took part in raising the Flag on Iwo Jima., Bradley was already on the summit of Mount Suribachi with his platoon, when Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon Block, PFC Ira Hayes, PFC Rene Gagnon and PFC Franklin Sousley, who had a larger flag on orders to place it so that it could be seen from great distance, asked him to lend them a hand in raising the flag attached to a heavy length of pipe. He was the last surviving of the six men.



John "Jack" "Doc" Bradley

